



THE UNIVERSITY *of* EDINBURGH

Edinburgh Research Explorer

Re-Interpreting Blackstone's Commentaries: A Seminal Text in National and International Contexts. Edited by Wilfrid Prest

Citation for published version:

Cairns, JW, *Re-Interpreting Blackstone's Commentaries: A Seminal Text in National and International Contexts. Edited by Wilfrid Prest*, 2014, Web publication/site, Edinburgh Legal History Blog.
<<http://www.elhblog.law.ed.ac.uk/2014/09/10/re-interpreting-blackstones-commentaries-a-seminal-text-in-national-and-international-contexts-edited-by-wilfrid-prest/>>

Link:

[Link to publication record in Edinburgh Research Explorer](#)

Document Version:

Publisher's PDF, also known as Version of record

Publisher Rights Statement:

© Cairns, J. (Author). (2014). Re-Interpreting Blackstone's Commentaries: A Seminal Text in National and International Contexts. Edited by Wilfrid Prest. Edinburgh Legal History Blog.

General rights

Copyright for the publications made accessible via the Edinburgh Research Explorer is retained by the author(s) and / or other copyright owners and it is a condition of accessing these publications that users recognise and abide by the legal requirements associated with these rights.

Take down policy

The University of Edinburgh has made every reasonable effort to ensure that Edinburgh Research Explorer content complies with UK legislation. If you believe that the public display of this file breaches copyright please contact openaccess@ed.ac.uk providing details, and we will remove access to the work immediately and investigate your claim.



Edinburgh Legal History **blog**

The Edinburgh Legal History Blog

[Home](#) [About Us](#)

← Richard and Diane Cummins Legal History Research Grant 2015

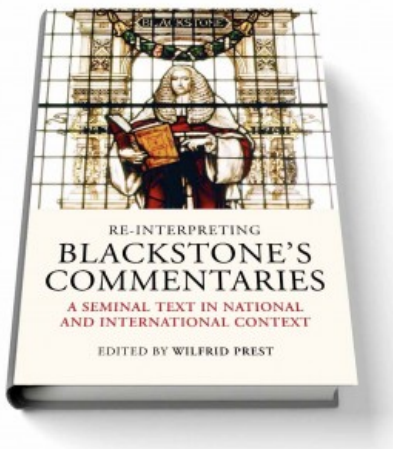
Augustus – Two Millennia On →

Re-Interpreting Blackstone's Commentaries: A Seminal Text in National and International Contexts. Edited by Wilfrid Prest

Posted on [10/09/2014](#) by [John Cairns](#)

Since research for his PhD, this blogger has had a long-term interest in Blackstone. Most readers of the blog will be aware of the wonderful new work on Blackstone being carried out in Adelaide under the leadership of Wilfrid Prest. This has produced a new biography, an edited collection of letters, and two volumes of essays, as well as encouraging all kinds of other work see <http://law.adelaide.edu.au/research/blackstone/>

This blogger had the privilege of participating in a conference on Blackstone there, where he managed to link his interests in Blackstone, slavery, and Louisiana. The conference proceedings have now been published as a volume, and it is possible for readers of this Blog to get a copy of the volume at a reduced price through the publisher's website!



Under the title Re-Interpreting Blackstone's Commentaries, the collection explores the remarkable impact and continuing influence of William Blackstone's Commentaries on the Laws of England, from the work's original publication in the 1760s down to the present. Contributions by intellectual and legal historians, together with cultural and literary scholars, trace the manner in which this truly seminal text has established its authority well beyond the author's native shores or his own limited lifespan. A particular value is the perspective from the humanities generally in the volume. Thus, in the first section, 'Words and Visions', Kathryn Temple, Simon Stern, Cristina S Martinez and Michael Meehan discuss the Commentaries' aesthetic and literary qualities as factors contributing to the work's unique status in Anglo-American legal culture.

The second group of essays is more traditional in approach, if opening up new research. They trace the nature and dimensions of Blackstone's impact in various jurisdictions outside England, namely Quebec (Michel Morin), Louisiana and the United States more generally (John W Cairns and Stephen M Sheppard), North Carolina (John V Orth) and Australasia (Wilfrid Prest). Finally Horst Dippel, Paul Halliday and Ruth Paley examine aspects of Blackstone's influential constitutional and political ideas, while Jessie Allen concludes the volume with a personal account of 'Reading Blackstone in the Twenty-First Century and the Twenty-First Century through Blackstone'.

This volume is a sequel to the well-received collection Blackstone and his Commentaries: Biography, Law, History (Hart

Publishing, 2009).

Table of Contents: <http://www.hartpub.co.uk/pdf/9781849465380.pdf>

Wilfrid Prest is Professor Emeritus in Law and History at the University of Adelaide.

Aug 2014 260pp Hbk 9781849465380 RSP: £50 / €65

DISCOUNT PRICE: £40 / €52

To receive the 20% discount through Hart Publishing's website please write ref: AY3 in the voucher code field and click apply:

<http://www.hartpub.co.uk/BookDetails.aspx?ISBN=9781849465380>

This entry was posted in [Legal History](#), [New Books](#). Bookmark the [permalink](#).

← Richard and Diane Cummins Legal History Research Grant 2015

Augustus – Two Millennia On →

Leave a Reply

Your email address will not be published. Required fields are marked *

Name *

Email *

Website

Comment

You may use these [HTML](#) tags and attributes: ` <abbr title=""> <acronym title=""> <blockquote cite=""> <cite> <code> <del datetime=""> <i> <q cite=""> <strike> `

Post Comment

Search

Recent Posts

- [Vesuvius strikes again!](#)
- [Signet Library Session Papers Index Digitised](#)
- [Annual Morris L. Cohen Student Essay Competition](#)
- [“A study of the textual tradition of Roman legal writings in Late Antiquity”: Postdoctoral Position](#)
- [News from the Max Planck Institute for European Legal History](#)


Recent Comments

- [Erasmus School of Law](#), colloq. « The many faces of Legal History / Rechtsgeschiedenis: anders en better (en l'honneur de L. Winkel), Rotterdam, 10 oct. 2014 | [Bonne Terre](#) on [Colloquium in Honour of Professor Laurens Winkel](#)
- [Lorena Carvajal](#) on [Valedictory Lecture: Professor Emeritus Dr Dr \(hc\) Laurens Winkel](#)
- [Hector MacQueen](#) on [Valedictory Lecture: Professor Emeritus Dr Dr \(hc\) Laurens Winkel](#)
- [Mathias Fazekas](#) on [About Us](#)
- [Christian Campbell](#) on [Professor Angelo Forte](#)

Categories

- [303 Years of Civil Law](#) (8)
- [In memoriam](#) (20)
- [Legal History](#) (147)
- [Libraries](#) (6)
- [Louisiana](#) (11)
- [New Books](#) (15)
- [News and Events](#) (46)
- [Old Books](#) (4)
- [Opportunities](#) (29)
- [Practicks](#) (4)
- [Resources](#) (11)
- [Roman Law](#) (25)
- [Slavery](#) (9)
- [Spottiswoode](#) (3)


Archives

Select Month 

Meta

- [Log in](#)
- [Entries RSS](#)
- [Comments RSS](#)
- [WordPress.org](#)

The Edinburgh Legal History Blog

 Proudly powered by [WordPress](#).